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September 2018 | Visit AmishNews.com



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DUTCH HAVEN

AN AMISH COUNTRY LANDMARK

Travelers have been traversing Lancaster County along Route 30 for well over two centuries. And for over 70 years, a very special building has signaled their arrival in Amish Country. It has a legitimate claim on being the area's oldest visitor landmark. Most importantly, it's the "place that made shoo-fly pie famous." That iconic structure is the **Dutch Haven** windmill.

With a history dating back to the beginnings of tourism here, the building is rich in memories. From the time it started as a luncheonette in 1920 right up to the present, it has remained most famous for shoo-fly pie, served warm with whipped cream. The Dutch Haven shoo-fly pie has even been mentioned in a TIME magazine article.

Today, as soon as you walk in, you'll be offered a free sample of that same delicious, gooey pie. Some 40,000 pies are baked

annually, using the original (secret) recipe. Visitors are still encouraged to "Take one for yourself or send one to someone nice." You can buy and ship pies home at the store or at their "online shop," where you'll find other local crafts as well.

Yes, Dutch Haven is much more than pies, with over 10,000 unique gift items, foods, and collectibles. Some of the most popular are jams, jellies, and canned goods, noodles, Amish pine furniture and cedar

chests, hex signs, quilted spice mats, Amish straw hats, jewelry and gemstones, Dutch Delft tiles, Amish dolls, onyx and soapstone animals, trivets, metal stars, Tiffany lamps, Amish romance novels, framed prints, plenty of T-shirts and postcards, and a tremendous selection of Amish-made outdoor furniture. It's an eclectic mix, to say the least.

As you explore, you'll discover lots of other "surprises" around every corner. Expect the unexpected! And don't forget the Amish-style root beer in the barrel.

Remember, Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week, Sunday-Thursday, 9 A.M.-7 P.M. and Friday and Saturday 9 A.M.-9 P.M. For more info about this Lancaster County landmark, call 717.687.0111. Look forward to your free sample when you walk in under the welcoming arms of the windmill for this truly is the place that made shoo-fly pie famous. 





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Enjoy An Authentic

When you mention Amish Country almost anywhere in the United States (and beyond), people think of the Amish and the local PA Dutch foods. And when you think of eating here, you'll probably think of family-style dining.

And for generations of visitors, when they think family-style they think "Good 'N Plenty."

by Brad Igou

This iconic restaurant celebrates 49 years in business this year and, unlike some of the original visitor businesses in the area that have changed ownership over the years, Good 'N Plenty remains firmly in the same family. Founders Christ and Dolly Lapp have passed the baton (or is it the platter?) to their son and his wife, Glen and Brenda Lapp, partners with Glen's sister and her husband, Judy and Don Eisenberger.

Interestingly, family-style dining got started when brothers Christ and Bob opened Plain & Fancy over 50 years ago.



It was a family affair, and in those early days, the food and style of dining were a hit. Christ got involved in starting Amish Country Tours, but recognized in his wife Dolly true managerial talent. So she left Plain & Fancy to join her husband and their partner Ed Hershey in opening Good 'N Plenty in 1969. In those days, there were lots of visitors, and not many restaurants, so business was brisk at both restaurants as more visitors in cars and buses poured into the county.

Christ bought an original farmhouse, and the meals were served in this authentic atmosphere at the long tables we all associate with family style dining. The Lapps had already learned from their wives that ladies didn't like crawling over benches to sit at the table, so chairs remained part of the formula. And Dolly brought with her all the things that had made family-style dining successful: simple, home-cooked food, traditional recipes, with all the food brought to the table and passed among other visitors who you did



not know, but who soon became part of that table's "family." Conversations followed as platters were passed, refilled, and passed some more, before you heard the moans of delight when the desserts arrived as diners had "eaten themselves full."

Eating at Good 'N Plenty became a tradition for thousands of visitors coming to Amish County. Bus groups were arriving, as they still do, and the Lapps soon needed to expand from the 200 people they could serve in the farmhouse. People were waiting in line up to two hours to get a place at a table. So, in 1971 a larger dining room was added to serve several hundred more. Good 'N Plenty can now handle 600 guests at a time. For the first 15-20 years there was so much business from tourists and bus groups that only early phone call reservations were taken before they had to shut off group meals at 5:00 PM so they had room for walk-ins.

Lancaster County Dining Experience.



Of course, the facility has been modernized and is more spacious, with a lovely gift shop and wonderful bakery, but you'll still see people eating in the original farmhouse, clearly visible from the road as you drive down Route 896. You'll still be treated to the same local favorites that are staples on the family-style menu.

Just as the restaurant is a tradition for visitors, so is it for many of the Lapp's employees. Lapp family members and even some employees are now the third generation to become part of the Good 'N Plenty tradition. Sometimes "the kids" make lots of changes when they take over, but Glen knew that what his parents had created was what people expected when they arrived. As Glen has said, "The secret to our success 49 years later is not to change what our customers keep coming back for... a consistent menu that revolves around the freshest local foods." Nevertheless, the Lapps heard requests from people who wanted the same great food, but perhaps not the full

all-you-can-eat meal. Eventually "Menu Dining" was introduced with most of the traditional favorites plus garden fresh salads, sandwiches and home-made soups. And now many of the restaurant's favorite items are also available for take-out.

But as so many know, Christ and Dolly are still familiar faces at the restaurant, just "checking up on things." They remain part of a select group of people who helped create the hospitality industry in Amish Country.

In a county where many businesses have stayed "in the family," Good 'N Plenty remains the epitome of this tradition.

The namesake of this dining legend for the next generation of the Lapp family (and their customers) still bespeaks what authentic Pennsylvania Dutch cooking and the dining experience here is all about — "Good food and plenty of it!" 



Family Owned & Operated Since 1969

Rt. 896, Smoketown, PA

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www.goodnplenty.com



VILLAGE OF BIRD-IN-HAND



Fields as seen from Amish View Inn & Suites

Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. Local legend suggests that the distinctive name of this

village comes from an inn thought to be as old as the Old Philadelphia-Lancaster Pike, now Route 340.

The Pike became a well-established route of transportation for those traveling west from Philadelphia in the 1700s. Inns were built every few miles as convenient rest stops for travelers, waggoneers, and their animals. These inns were identified with signs hanging from a pole or attached to the side of the building. The story goes that as the Pike was being laid out, two road surveyors had a discussion. Should they stop at their

present location or go on to Lancaster to spend the night? One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The other surveyor agreed with this suggestion, and both remained at what became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, with the story later memorialized with a sign depicting a man with a bird in his hand and nearby two birds perched in a bush.

A lot has changed since 1734, but visitors today can still expect friendly shopkeepers, homegrown Lancaster County foods, and restful lodging for weary travelers. 

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Quilts Are a Tradition at Smucker's

By Brad Igou

As you wander about the Amish farmlands, you'll no doubt come across quite a few Amish quilt shops. One of my favorites, and worth your seeking out, is Smucker's Quilts. You can find Rachel's shop down a long picturesque lane, just outside New Holland, north of Route 23, at 117 N. Groffdale Road.

With the help of her mother-in-law, Rachel Smucker opened her shop about 20 years ago in a small storage barn. She quickly outgrew the barn and moved the shop into the basement of her farmhouse, which occasionally doubled as the room where church was held when it was her family's "turn." When the basement was needed for her district's Amish church service, Rachel had to clear away her merchandise and replace it with benches. ➔

Fall's Favorite Flavors

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On Old Philadelphia Pike (Route 340) in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country.



Bird-in-Hand.com



As word of mouth brought more and more customers, a spacious, beautiful shop was built next to the homestead, and now there is plenty of room to display her merchandise, which includes an amazing number of quilts in a variety of patterns, colors, and sizes, including king size.

Rachel often chooses colors and orders the fabrics for the quilts. The quilting is then done by one of approximately 40 to 50 local Amish and Mennonite ladies who do work for her. She refers to the production of the quilts as “a



Quilts are best appreciated displayed as they will be used, on a bed, like this one at Smucker's Quilts.

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sharing thing,” and happily adds that “quilting gives a lot of ladies jobs.”

You’ll also find the now popular quillows, which are quilted lap throws that fold up into pillows, and are an affordable way to purchase a handmade item that is compact, attractive, and useful. There are also spice mats, handbags, and Amish hats and clothing, among many other items.

You’ll find competitive prices, and you can even pay for your purchase with Visa or MasterCard. The shop is open every day but Sunday, from 8AM to 5PM, 717.656.8730. Bus groups all also welcome in this expansive store.

I am quite sure that you’ll enjoy both your visit and the drive in the countryside that takes you there!



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Journey along back country roads, deep into the Amish Farmlands to discover sights rarely seen. Under the watchful eye of your certified guide, you'll gain insights into the "how" and "why" of an ever-changing culture, and see at-the-moment activities of the Amish. If you've seen the Amish portrayed on the various "Reality" TV shows, and you wonder what really is true and not true about the Amish, this is the tour you won't want to miss! We'll debunk myths about the Amish and provide accurate, respectful, and authentic information, just like we have done for over 50 years.

Duration: 1 ½ hours
Seven Days a Week
10 AM, 12 PM, 2 PM & 4 PM

Book Your Tickets Online and Save!

Visit-in-Person Tour



Rare is the opportunity to meet with Amish families willing to share their traditions and beliefs with you. In a group whose size is never more than 14, this is the only Amish Tour to be designated an official "Heritage Tour" by the County of Lancaster. Visit an Amish farm at milking time, stop at a Cottage Industry, and finally enjoy a visit and chat with one of our Amish friends in their home. For details, see page 8.



April 2–October 31
Duration: 3 hours
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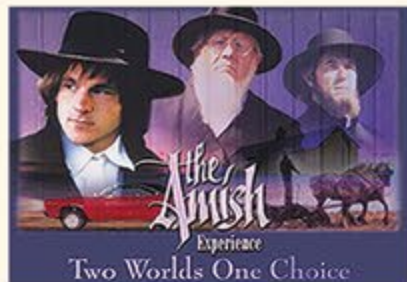
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Jacob's Choice at the Amish Experience Theater

Discover what it means to be Amish through magical story-telling as you become part of the emotional struggle of the Fisher family to preserve more than 400 years of Amish traditions. Five viewing screens, a unique barnyard setting, and special effects create a one-of-a-kind experience.

Amish Farmlands Tour

Journey down rarely traveled back country roads, deep into the farmlands, to discover the sights sought after by visitors. Gain insights into the hows and whys of an ever-changing culture from certified guides in 14-passenger mini-shuttles. Stops may include a roadside stand, quilt shop, country store or craft shop on an Amish farm.



Amish Country Homestead & Schoolroom

Visit the only officially designated "Heritage Site" Amish house. As you walk through the nine rooms with your guide, unravel the riddle of Amish clothing, life without electricity, and eight-grades-in-a-room education as you sit at authentic Amish school desks.

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Visit-in-Person Tour

This officially designated "Heritage Tour" is a rare opportunity to meet and talk to the Amish personally. On this exclusive tour you will go right into the barn on an Amish farm at milking time, visit with an Amish artisan at his workplace, and then enjoy a personal visit and conversation right in an Amish home. Limited to 14 guests.

Smokehouse BBQ and Brews

Please see right hand page.



Buggy Rides

Aaron & Jessica's drivers are happy to share life stories and answer questions.

The Country Store

Find books, videotapes, candles, toys and dolls, kitchen and home items, souvenirs, local handcrafts, Amish clothing, straw hats, bonnets, and last but not least...tasty treats.

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Very few towns in Amish Country are more famous than Intercourse. Even Harrison Ford was in town filming the movie "Witness" over 30 years ago. Since the early 1700's, the town was a stop on the Old Philadelphia Pike, connecting Lancaster with Philadelphia, with a tavern called "Cross Keys." In 1814, a real estate scheme based on changing the name to Intercourse failed. But the name stuck, signifying the intersection of roads and mingling of people in this quiet country village. By 1880, the town had a population of 280 and, as it still does today, a post office where visitors can get a postcard dated and stamped "Intercourse, PA."



Amish Quilt shops abound in the farmlands around Intercourse, PA. Photo credit: Charles Rehm

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Bear & Sons in the News Nationwide, Seen & Sold at Country Knives

By Clinton Martin

Whenever I have a question about anything sharp, I always call Brian at Country Knives, a knife and edged tool expert, who just so happens to call Amish

Country his home, operating his impressive knife and cutlery store just two miles east of the village Intercourse along Route 340.

All of the manufacturers that Brian carries in his store have fascinating stories, so I asked him to tell me about one manufacturer I had heard of, Bear & Sons....

I quickly learned that Brian has personally met and knows well the owner of Bear & Sons, having established a 30+ year friendship with the man. So Brian indeed was the best guy to talk to, second only to driving to Jacksonville, Alabama, to interview the president of Bear & Sons, Ken Griffey, in person.

According to Brian, Bear & Sons is one of only three remaining traditional US pocket-knife manufacturers. There are plenty of US knife brands that import their products from

overseas, but you can count on one hand the number that manufacture domestically. Bear & Sons has captured the imagination because it is a feel-good success story. Sales have increased year after year, jobs have been added, and the price tag remains accessible to the average consumer.

Brian has amassed not only an inventory of 8,000 plus items, but he has also gathered together highly knowledgeable employees able to match you with the perfect knife or edged tool that meets your specific needs.

Using a GPS to find Country Knives – 4134 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gordonville PA 17529. The store is just two miles east of Intercourse on Route 340, and is open every day except Sunday. Call 717.768.3818 or visit www.CountryKnives.com.

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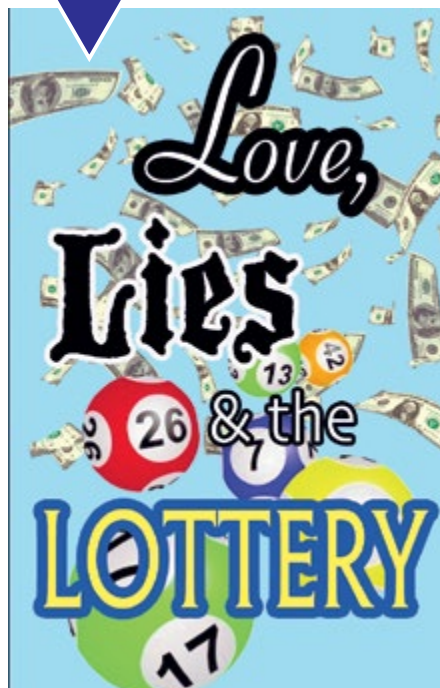
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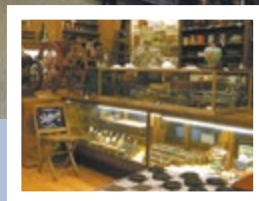
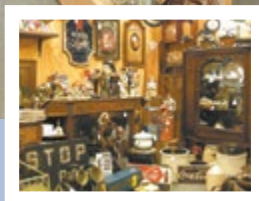
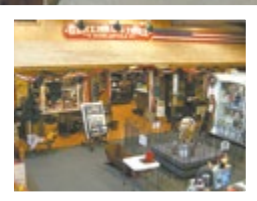
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In Beautiful Paradise Lancaster County Pennsylvania

Beautiful Window into the Quilted World at Riehl's Quilts & Crafts

By Clinton Martin

Whenever I have the opportunity to show some friends around the Amish countryside, I always make sure to include in my "tour" certain expected sights, such as a one-room school, or horses or mules working in the field. And there's one stop that I just have to make. That is at Riehl's Quilts & Crafts.

Riehl's is a lovely Amish family farm, and like most Amish farms multiple generations live on site, tending the land and working together to provide a quiet, serene place to call home. However, unlike the majority of farms in the area, this is one homestead where visitors are welcome to stroll around on their own.

There is a barn where visitors can see the family's horses and mules, another structure where the cows are milked, a carriage house that often has a buggy or two to view, and what is arguably one of the area's most expansive "farm shops."



Sam and Susie's shop was built specifically to house the store, cooled by fans running on "Amish electricity," with lighting to match. Roughly half of the store is devoted to quilts, while the other half is stocked with candles, books, wind chimes, dolls, toys, jams and jellies, and small craft items. Invariably it is the quilt-room that draws my attention.

The pure beauty and functional artistic expression make surrounding oneself with quilts a sublime experience. Riehl's provides not only a way to see handmade Amish quilts, but to fully appreciate the full spectrum and variety. It seems like each time I visit I find a new design to study and critique. ➔

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A customer favorite is clearly the “Dahlia Log Cabin.” In the world of quilting, this pattern is truly a hybrid. The design was created by mixing the patterns for a “Dahlia” and a “Log Cabin” quilt to come up with something new and different. With “cones” on the edging, the quilt is colorful out to the very edge, without the white border of many other designs. And the absence of a white border means the “Dahlia Log Cabin” does not show dirt as easily as other patterns!

Even with around 70 Amish friends and neighbors of the Riehls, in addition to the Riehl womenfolk themselves providing the stitching and sewing handiwork, it takes 4-5 weeks to complete the pieced, patchwork quilt blueprint of a “Dahlia Log Cabin.” All of

the patchwork is done on a sewing machine, and then the quilting completed by hand. Other popular quilt patterns at Riehl’s include Country Love, Wedding Ring, Heirloom and Penn Dutch Sampler.

For about 25 years now, visitors have been enjoying the Riehl family hospitality, and the

wide selection of quilts, quillows, and crafts, right on an Amish dairy farm. Located at 247 E. Eby Road, Leola, the shop is open 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays. For more information, call 717.656.0697 or visit their website at www.RiehlsQuiltsAndCrafts.com 



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A ride on the historic Strasburg Rail Road, pulled by an authentic steam locomotive, is a "must do" for visitors to Amish Country. Photo Credit: Donna Gingrich

Named for the city in France, Strasburg is often referred to as "Train Town." In the 1700's, the village was on major commercial wagon routes. In the 1850's, a rail line connecting it with the Philadelphia and Columbia main line near Paradise helped keep the town's commerce active. And a hundred years later, to save the steam locomotives from demise, a group of local enthusiasts turned to passengers and visitors to keep America's oldest short-line running as the now famous Strasburg Rail Road. Not surprisingly, Strasburg is now home to several wonderful train related attractions. All aboard! 🚂



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However, the quilts sold at Esh's have another dimension. They are not only handmade, but hand-stitched. A hand-stitched

quilt is becoming a rarity, unlikely to be found even at quilt shows and, sadly, is becoming a lost art. Quilt connoisseurs will be able to recognize the tender loving care and time invested in each and every quilt sold at Esh's.

But you'll discover more than quilts, too... handmade pillows, as well as home-made jams and relishes, all from the kitchen of the Esh family. There are over 20 varieties of jams, including hot pepper jam, the most popular. Often eaten on crackers with cream cheese, these jams travel as far as Philadelphia, where eager shoppers await their arrival at the Reading Terminal Market.

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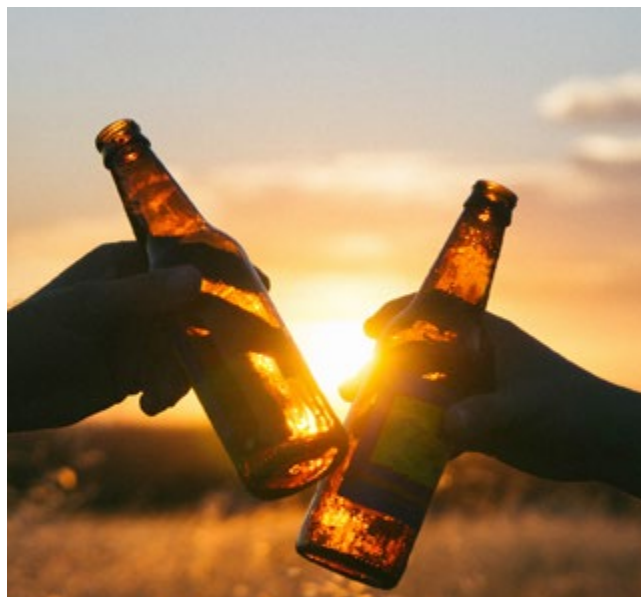
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Feeling What It's Like To Be Amish — The Making of JACOB'S CHOICE

By Brad Igou



Since its debut in 1995, visitors have been enjoying an unconventional means of understanding “what it means to be Amish.” The Disney-like production of “Jacob’s Choice” ties the personal story of a teenage Amish boy and his family to the beginnings of the Amish faith in Europe nearly 500 years ago.

Only the third “experiential theater” of its kind in North America, the story is brought to life through multiple projections screens, a three-dimensional set, high-tech theatrical lighting and sound, and unexpected special effects.

As one of the producers, I’d like to share, with more than a little pride, the story behind the creation of our acclaimed creation

The first step, of course, was to form a creative team, which consisted largely of talented local professionals. An award-winning author was given some Amish research materials and turned loose to write a story. One of the things that always surprised visitors we spoke to, was that “becoming Amish” was a choice. Our writer picked up on this, and began with a story that involved this idea of adult baptism and how the past related to today’s decision to be Amish or not.

While the script was in development, the theater building, special effects, and how the story would be presented were often hotly debated. We needed to be respectful and accurate, yet entertain a modern audience. We hand-picked an amazing creative team and arranged for them to sit down, talk to some Amish, and gain the background and concepts for how the story might be told. We reminded ourselves to always focus on “the

story,” and resort to the effects only to add drama and emotion.

The contemporary story would be presented in movie form. The historical scenes would use an effect known as “Pepper’s Ghost,” which creates what appear to be three-dimensional people in a physical space. We settled on two dramatic stories and engravings from the Martyr’s Mirror, a centuries old book that graphically describes the persecution of the European forefathers of the Amish and Mennonites, the Anabaptists. We decided to use words from a 1737 ship’s passenger’s diary for the scenes of the treacherous journey to America.

Inside, we wanted the feel of a farm, with a barn-siding set surrounding the audience, and benches as our seating, since an Amish church service became an integral part of the story. One day someone had the idea of showing the film on the actual barn siding. Our lighting designer then came up with the idea of putting lights behind the siding to simulate light coming through the cracks. It was daring, but ultimately became one of the signature features of our theater, allowing the set to become the movie screens and vice-versa.

Storyboards were drawn, so we could visualize, and debate, what would end up on film, and as a guide to the film crew. This also helped us to consider and then decide what the audience would be seeing on the five different screens.

An outside film crew with major TV credits was brought in. We ended up renting costumes from Paramount Studios, Hollywood which, to our delight, were the

same costumes used in the 1985 blockbuster movie Witness with Harrison Ford! We filmed on three nearby farms, and cast professional actors to portray the characters, thus respecting the wishes of the Amish not to be photographed.

While the theater was being built, the final editing, music and sound were added in Los Angeles, where the few companies capable of creating the necessary effects were to be found. It was an unusual editing job, even by Hollywood standards, since all of our film had to be broken up for projection onto five screens.

Meanwhile, the physical set and effects were laid in, including a cannon that would shoot smoke rings over the audience, now one of the favorite scenes of both adults and children.

When we got the edited film back to Lancaster, we began working on “putting it all together.” After pulling an all-nighter, we actually managed to open as planned on July 1, 1995.

When the first customers arrived, it was at that point that it hit me...would this story touch visitors? We wanted to present the Amish as real people, not as saints or a curiosity for tourists. Would our audience “connect” with this tale of growing up Amish?

Fortunately the story had, and continues to have, broad appeal, more than perhaps we could have hoped for. Many conservative Mennonites have seen the show, as have Amish, and ex-Amish. A surprising number of Hasidic Jews regularly visit us, seeing clear parallels in this story to their own.

This idea of “choice” forces people to think about why someone wants to live Amish, and the generational conflict is something nearly all people can identify with. One Amish woman left our show deeply moved and said, “I have a boy just like that.” And a few non-Amish have said the same thing!

I believe we achieved a very simple goal of “tears and wows,” using exciting modern technology to help an audience identify with the Amish, to turn their curiosity into understanding and empathy. “Jacob’s Choice” is presented on the hour, from 10am to 5pm in the Amish Experience Theater, on the property of Plain & Fancy Farm, Route 340, between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse. 717.768.8400, ext.210. www.AmishExperience.com. Other tours and the opportunity to visit and talk to the Amish in person are also available. 

The Amish in Their Own Words

Vol. 2 – Part 12 • • •

by Brad Igou



Is Our Way of Life a Prison?

By a Contented “Convict”

The “FOR SALE” sign still stood in front of our house for about a week after we purchased our farm. Then late one afternoon the real estate agent arrived to fetch it. With him was his 12-year-old daughter.

After putting the sign into the trunk of his car, he walked to where I was working near the buggy shed. Turning toward his daughter, he said, “Jackie, I want you to meet a man who doesn’t have electricity in his home. And he doesn’t have that idiot box in the corner of the living room which we call a TV, do you, sir?”

I couldn’t help grinning a little at his comment and replied, “No, we don’t have a television set.”

Addressing his daughter, he asked her, “Well, Jackie, what do you think of that?”

Without a moment’s hesitation she pursed her lips and said, “A prison!”

Also without a moment’s hesitation I replied, “No, Jackie, prisons have electricity, telephones, and TV.”

I certainly hope they did not get the impression that I think our Amish way of life is worse than being in a prison. The message I had hoped they would get was that they were judging the quality of life solely by material objects.

Has materialism crept into the Amish way of life? Of course. Since we are humans, we are faced with the temptation of loving the things

of the world. I think it would only be truthful to say that we have among our people some who are more “English” than the “English.” Haven’t we all met some non-Amish people who, although they have electricity, have more modest furnishings in their homes than some of our people have? Don’t some non-Amish neighbors seem more content with what they have than some of our people are?

This makes me think of the time my sister-in-law visited a so-called plain home in a distant community. She said the living room was so “picture perfect” and everything just “so-so” that she almost hated to spoil it all by seating her bulky self onto one of the chairs. And she was glad she didn’t have any of her little children with her lest they touch something they shouldn’t. The “plain” house reeked of materialism.

What is materialism? Very briefly stated, it is the love of material objects more than spirituality. A person is not materialistic because an object is regarded as beautiful. As one Amish convert explains, “When I joined, my cousin said she was surprised since I had always liked nice things. Well, I still like nice things, but I don’t need to have them”

It is the spirit of discontent and the craving for material things which make a person materialistic. The Bible tells us to “Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth.” (Colossians 3:2)

Getting back to Jackie’s statement about our way of life being a prison... If it is, I must admit I am a contented “convict.” I think we have a meaningful and wonderful way of life where faith, family, and community are cherished more than material objects.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, “And having food and raiment (clothing), let us be therewith content.” (I Timothy 6:8) Studying that verse gives us all quite a bit of homework to do, doesn’t it?

Lessons from History

By David Wagler

We should not be conformed to the world, and it should be in such a way that anyone can see it. We believe history bears this out, and that a Christian’s nonconformity ought to be just as visible as the ribband of blue which the

Several years ago, I started working on a second volume of THE AMISH IN THEIR OWN WORDS, my book compiled from Amish writings in “Family Life” magazine. Since then, for many reasons, my project of producing “Volume 2” remains in limbo. Nevertheless, because I had begun to read and compile articles, I have decided to share some of them with you again this year as a continuation of my 2017 Amish Series. This month’s selections give a distinctive Amish view on “worldliness.”

children of Israel were commanded to wear down through the centuries

“Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them...” (Numbers 15:38–39)

History teaches us that when our churches change over to a college-trained ministry and begin following the world in their thinking and living, nonconformity will soon be lost. One of the greatest losses ever suffered by the Amish churches was during the last half of the 1800’s, when a large number of congregations took the gradual trend to adapt to the world. Those who were not caught up in this movement were called Old Order Amish, and since that time they have grown in numbers beyond what anyone envisioned.

When a church becomes slack in discipline, and when religion is considered only a matter of heart and not of everyday living, then that church is headed for trouble. Too often we see where the individual conscience is the dominating force.

The next step is to consider unnecessary all these restrictions that set us apart from other people. Allowing more of the comforts and luxuries of this world is never a successful remedy for discontentment in the church. 

Next Month: Inside the Mind of a Minister

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The first floor is scented by a collection of candles. Calming, earthy colors are

everywhere; maroons, greens and browns surround shoppers. And the names of the scents may even make you hungry: Apple Crisp, Caramel Flan, Gingerbread, and Lemon Custard.

Venturing upstairs, you'll find an array of fabric, thread and, of course, quilts. In fact, they boast having the largest fabric selection in Lancaster County.

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The main shop is at 2851 Lincoln Highway East (Route 30), Ronks (717.687.0534), but you can also check out the quilts and crafts at the nearby store at 3453 Old Philadelphia Pike (Route 340), Intercourse (717.768.3981). Or visit them online at www.dutchlandquilts.com. 




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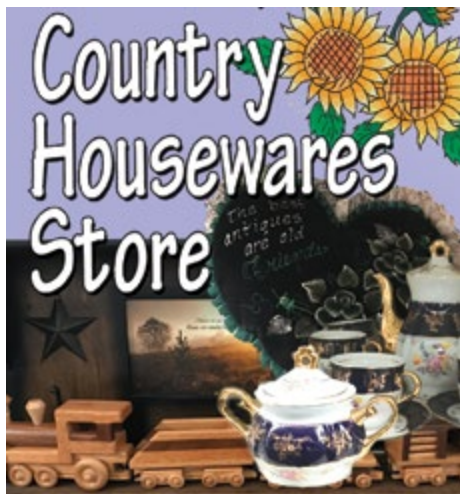
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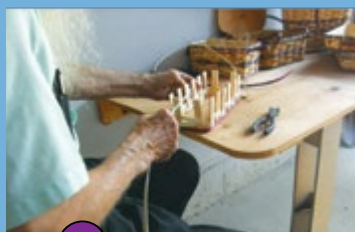
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Thomas the Tank Engine Visits the Strasburg Rail Road

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All aboard! Thomas the Tank Engine invites little engineers to join him and his best friend, Percy, for a day of big adventures and even bigger memories at the “*Day Out with Thomas: Big Adventures Tour 2018*,” presented by Mattel, at the Strasburg Rail Road, September 15-23, 2018. For nine days, children and their families are invited to take a 20-minute ride on their favorite engine, meet Sir Topham Hatt, Controller of the Railway, and enjoy a day of *Thomas & Friends* fun with

crafts, photo ops, and much more. Children who attend *Day Out With Thomas* in 2018 will also receive a “Passport to Adventures” booklet to track their journey at the event, along with a special prize upon completion. The tour, now in its 23rd year, will make 42 stops across the U.S. and Canada and is expected to welcome nearly one million passengers in 2018.

Thomas the Tank Engine™ is the star of *Thomas & Friends*, the award-winning global brand franchise enjoyed by families in more than 150 territories and in over 40 languages, with over 400 original TV shows, 12



feature-length films and 14 websites in nine languages.

Thomas the Tank Engine and Percy rides depart approximately every 30 minutes, rain or shine. Departure times are as follows: Saturdays: 9:45 a.m.–2:45 p.m.; Sunday September 16: 10:15 a.m.–2:15 p.m.; Sunday, September 23: 10:15 a.m.–1:45 p.m., Monday–Friday: 10:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at www.strasburgrailroad.com or www.ticketweb.com/dowt or by calling toll-free 866.468.7630.

Strasburg Rail Road is one of Pennsylvania's leading family attractions and is home to museum quality, turn-of-the century steam locomotives, freight cars, dining cars, private cars, and one of the largest fleets of wooden passenger cars in the world. Founded in 1832, it holds the distinction of being America's oldest short-line railroad. Strasburg Rail Road is located at 301 Gap Rd. Ronks, PA 17572. For info and directions, visit www.strasburgrailroad.com, or call 866.725.9666.

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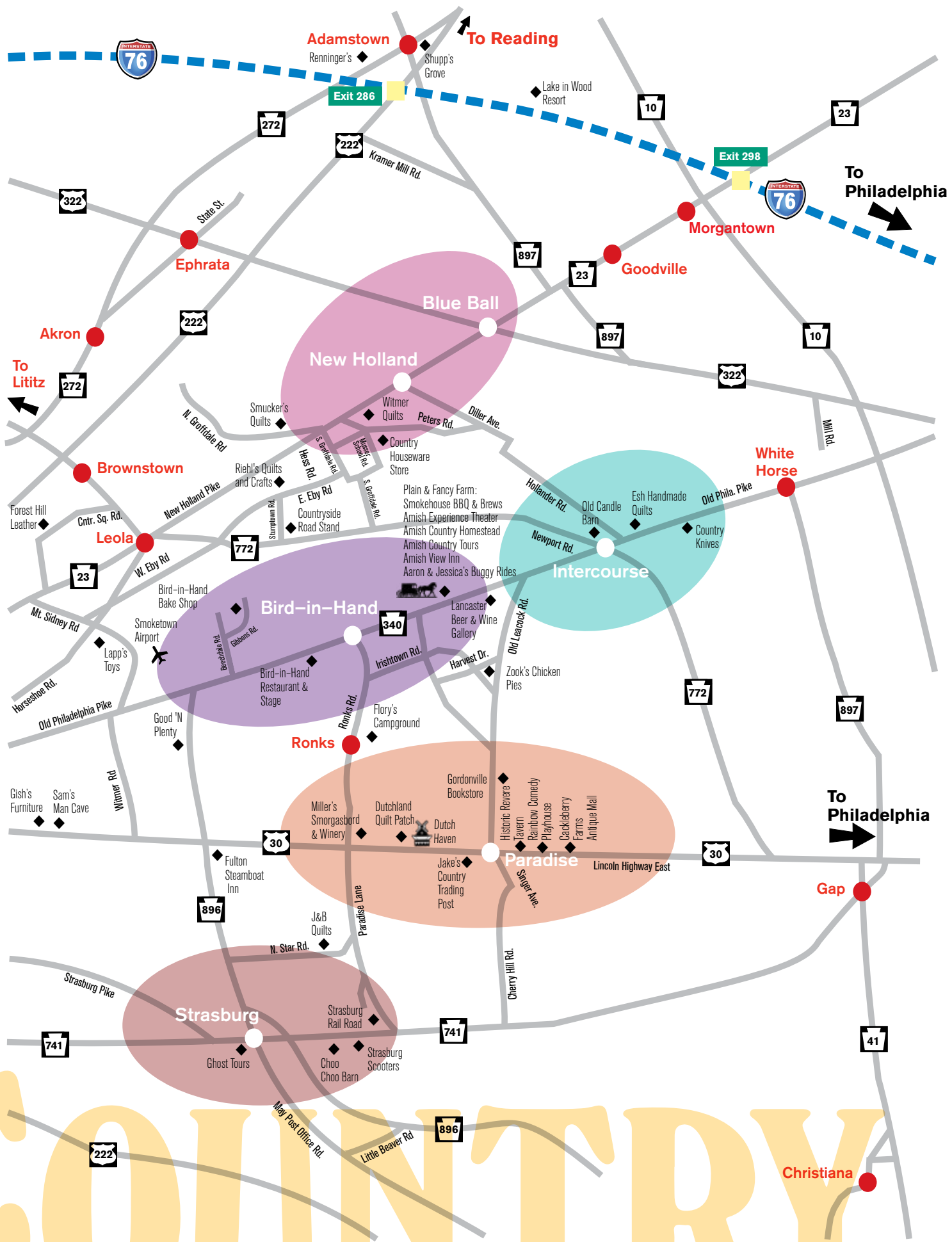
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PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

On the Train to PHILADELPHIA

By Art Igou



Photo by Richard Livesay.

Going through your parents' belongings after they have passed away can be filled with nostalgia and some sadness. My father loved to write. He would jot down on scrap paper random thoughts that came to him watching TV, or reading, or after some experience. I found notes and stories in various boxes and drawers all around the house. So, I am going to let my dad write this month's story...

It was Thursday morning, July 1990, a typical day for this time of year, hot and sticky. My friend, Harold, makes frequent trips to Philadelphia's Wills Eye Hospital, and I am his companion on these jaunts, most of which are pretty routine happenings.

There seemed to be nothing unusual as we boarded the Amtrak Train in Lancaster that morning. And then a large Amish family entered the coach from the opposite end of the aisle.

Father, mother, and seven well-behaved children were carefully choosing their seats. You could immediately realize that this was going to be a very special day for them. Because of their presence, this would also be a very special day for us.

The seven children ranged in age from about two to twelve years old. The father wore his straw hat, while his sons had the traditional black felt hats. They were all dressed in "Amish colors."

The children were filled with excitement. They were up and down, from one side of the coach to the other. As the train passed through the farms of their friends, suddenly they saw their own house and barn. They shouted their discovery to their parents. Their dog even ran alongside the train, barking and jumping, but quickly lost the race.

Harold spoke to the older Amish boy, "Is this your first train ride?"

"Yes, it is our first time on the train and we are also going to the Philadelphia Zoo, our first visit to the zoo."

The excitement was at a fever pitch as we came to a stop in the 30th Street Philadelphia Station. Father was soon asking for directions to the Zoo, and it was now apparent that the entire family would walk there. Harold, with his expertise on the city, planned a foolproof hike for the family. The boys all nodded that they understood and, after a warm handshake, the entire family, lunch and all, tramped off to the zoo.

Yes, we had already asked, and the Amish family would be back on our train when we returned to Lancaster that evening.

Well, Dr. Katz bit off more than he could chew, so Harold and I had to run to the subway and hope it would get us to the Station on time for the 4:35 train. We didn't want to miss hearing those children tell their stories about their first visit to the Zoo!

As Harold and I huffed and puffed into the coach, Amish hands were flailing and waving to get our attention. It was obvious the children were as anxious to tell us of their experience as we were to hear from them.

"We had a wonderful time," the oldest girl told us. "We saw so many animals we had never seen before!"

We all hit the jackpot on this day, and it is unlikely that this experience will ever be repeated again for any of us.

As the green fields of Lancaster were coming into view on both sides of the train, I felt so lucky that I had made this my home.

The Amish family departed at the train station, bidding us farewell. They all piled into the pick-up truck of an "English" friend, and they were probably as happy as I was to be home again.

The moral of the story...don't be surprised if you're a visitor to Amish Country, and suddenly you get the urge to make your home here with us! 



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